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STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

TESTIMONY ON HR No. 105 and HCR 169, Requesting the Office of Veterans' Services, assisted by the Department of Accounting and General Services and the Department of Defense, to develop a plan to create memorials to the veterans of the Persian Gulf War, the Afghanistan-Iraq War, and to Women Veterans of World War II on the ground of the State Capitol near the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials.

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

March 11, 2010

Good morning Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice-Chair Isaac W. Choy, and members of the House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, & Military Affairs.

I am Mark Moses, Director of the Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to support HR 105 and HC 169, as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Years 2010-2011.

These resolutions ask the Office of Veterans' Services with the assistance of the above named departments to create on the State Capitol grounds near the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials, additional memorials recognizing veterans of the Persian Gulf War, the Afghanistan-Iraq War, and Women Veterans of World War II.

Usually memorials are developed at the end of a conflict so that appropriate recognition can be granted to all members of the armed forces who served. The Persian Gulf War and the Afghanistan-Iraq War are considered parts of the Global War on Terrorism, and has not been concluded as of this date. Given the scope of the planning and diversity required to adequately represent the Wars mentioned and Women of World War II, the OVS would require funds to employ a contractor who would gather information concerning structures and symbols that represent each part of the memorials. Additionally, the contractor would provide proposed location, cost estimate for the structures and landscaping of these memorials.

Given our present economic situation, this project could help create construction and other jobs that may aid in the recovery process. At the same time, this project would compete with scarce funds needed for essential time sensitive construction projects.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my comments.